

**Important Note:** This activity was developed for the original Green Lunchroom Challenge program, a voluntary pledge program for K-12 schools to improve the sustainability of their food service operations. The project was coordinated by the [Illinois Sustainable Technology Center Technical Assistance Program](#) with funding from US EPA Region 5.



The following page(s) represent the content of this activity as it appeared on the original project web site, complete with available points and instructions for submitting documentation. **The project is no longer funded and as of June 2018 schools may no longer submit activity documentation to earn points and recognition as described.** The activity is presented for your information to guide your organization's sustainability efforts.

If your school or district implements the suggested activity and wishes to share its experiences, please email [Joy Scrogum](#). Your story may be incorporated into a blog post on this web site, the main ISTC site, or shared on social media to foster networking and inspiration among peer institutions.



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# Submit an original lesson plan on composting

**Activity Category:** Raise Awareness and Share Successes

**Activity:** Submit an original lesson plan on composting

**Rationale:** Raising awareness of the magnitude of the food waste problem and the issues involved among the next generation, and also examining potential solutions with them, helps to ensure that students will integrate desired behaviors and carry them into their decision-making roles in the future. Changing procedures is important for your school today, but changing the mindsets of students is important for our society tomorrow.



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**Activity Description:** Submit an original lesson plan, written by a representative of your school or organization, related to composting, including information on composting food scraps (i.e. do not simply write about the types of organisms found in a compost pile; if you write about organisms, include inquiry on the types of food scraps those organisms would break down in the compost pile). **Note that by submitting your lesson plan, you are giving permission for it to be shared on the Green Lunchroom Challenge web site.** This will multiply the impact of your work, allowing educators in other locations to use the lesson you've created. You will be listed as the author, and may link to the published lesson from your personal or school web site. Submitted lesson plans will be posted to the Green Lunchroom Challenge web site sometime after the end of the Challenge period.

**Earn Challenge Points (100 points):** Download the editable PDF Lesson Plan Template, and fill in all required fields. Save your completed file with a new, descriptive name (e.g. Yourlastname-compost-lesson.pdf), and email it to Joy Scrogum at [jscrogum@illinois.edu](mailto:jscrogum@illinois.edu). Lessons must fit within the two-page template to be accepted. **Note that only one lesson plan per category listed in the Activities list under "Raise Awareness and Share Successes" may be submitted by any Challenge participant for points in a given calendar year.** If you are participating as a district, only one plan from a school in your district may be submitted.



The plan may be written by a teacher, administrator, or other staff member, or a parent involved with the PTA/PTO or a student club/organization. If the author is not on the staff







directory of your school's web site, Challenge staff will contact your organization to verify/clarify their relationship to the school.

-  When listing Illinois Learning Standards, use the following format: 11.B.2a. Write out the standard beside its number if space allows. **Even if you are not located in IL, to submit a plan for points, you must align it to IL learning standards**, because the Challenge is focused on assisting schools in IL. See the link to IL standards in the "Resources" section below.
-  The "Assessments" section should consist of a numbered list of questions for class discussion or assignment.
-  The "Rubric" field is not required, but strongly encouraged. **If your rubric is best set up in a table format that will not fit within the field on the form, it may be submitted as an additional PDF document. Please limit the size of that additional document to 1-2 pages.** When your plan is published on the Challenge web site, the rubric document will be linked to your lesson plan.

**If you experience difficulty with the Lesson Plan Template form, you must contact [Joy Scrogum](#) well in advance of the Challenge period deadline to receive assistance with troubleshooting.** In other words, test the form out to make sure it will work properly for you; do not wait until an hour before the deadline and expect immediate assistance. **Files must be emailed to Joy Scrogum ([jscrogum@illinois.edu](mailto:jscrogum@illinois.edu)) as completed PDFs using the template form provided to be considered.**

Note that the lesson plan you create may be related to, or the result of, activities completed for the "Composting" category of the Challenge, but you may not submit a lesson plan as the description required to earn points for those separate activities. See the "Earn Challenge Points" sections of those related activities for complete requirements.

#### Resources:

-  [Green Lunchroom Challenge Lesson Plan Template Form](#) 
-  [Illinois Learning Standards](#) 
-  See the "Resources" sections of activities in the "Composting" category on the main ["Activities" page](#)  for additional relevant resources.

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